

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 SAB-02 /063 W  
-----085487 060000Z /73

R 041503Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4598  
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 10270

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PN, CO, PBOR  
SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL TREATY; NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE

DURING COURTESY CALL WHICH US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ROGERS PAID ON PRESIDENT LOPEZ YESTERDAY, THE LATTER SAID HE HAD RECENTLY COME UP WITH AN IDEA FOR GUARANTEEING THE CANAL'S NEUTRALITY WHICH HE WISHED HE HAD THOUGHT OF EARLIER. THIS CONCEPT ENTAILED A JOINT GUARANTEE BY THE UNITED STATES, COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA. INVOLVEMENT OF COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA WOULD BE BASED ON FACT THAT THEIR TERRITORY IS CONTIGUOUS TO PANAMA (AND MIGHT BE USED BY US FORCES IN CASE OF THREAT TO CANAL'S NEUTRALITY) PLUS FACT THAT BOTH COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA (LIKE THE US) HAVE SPECIAL AGREEMENTS WITH PANAMA PROVIDING FOR THE PASSAGE OF THEIR

WARSHIPS THROUGH THE CANAL. LOPEZ THOUGHT THAT THE INCLUSION OF COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIAN IN SUCH A PACT GUARANTEEING NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL WOULD PROBABLY HAVE ENHANCED ITS APPEAL AND ACCEPTABILITY TO THE PANAMANIANS. LOPEZ SAID HE REALIZED THAT PANAMA AND THE US HAD ALREADY REACHED THEIR OWN AGREEMENT ON THIS QUESTION BUT HE SEEMED TO BE IMPLYING THAT IF THE AGREEMENT CAME UNSTUCK HE WOULD

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BE INTERESTED IN PUTTING FORWARD THIS IDEA OF HIS OWN.  
DREXLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESIDENT, AGREEMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CANALS, NEUTRALISM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977BOGOTA10270  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770409-0723  
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**From:** BOGOTA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 58  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 719194  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PANAMA CANAL TREATY; NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE DURING COURTESY CALL WHICH US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ROGERS PAID ON PRESIDENT LOPEZ YESTERDAY, THE LATTER SAID  
**TAGS:** PBOR, EWWT, PN, CO, (LOPEZ MICHELSSEN, ALFONSO)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/c78cb322-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009